

Minutes: Agenda Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School Governance Board Meeting

February 12, 2020 - 4:30 pm

MG21 Conference Room, 5301 Monona Drive, Monona, WI. 53716

MG21 Governance Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 4:30

Board members present: Sue Carr, Steve Halverson, Tom Howe, Phil McDade, Denise Peterson, Tom Stolper

Board members absent: None

MG-21 Staff present: Rebecca Fox-Blair, Melissa Hahn (left at 6:10 pm), Jon Rouse, Ian Lowe (left at 5:50 pm)

A. Call to Order Board President Denise Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm

B. Declaration of Public Notice-Duly noted

C. Approval of [January Minutes](#)

D. Correspondence and Announcements

E. Consideration and Possible Action on a Request for Contract Reduction-Ian Lowe-

Two main points: 1) Ian loves teaching at MG-21 and wishes to continue, but also needs to have time to spend with his own children and family, and so, 2) wants to start, for 2020-2021 school year, an 80% contract, working Monday through Thursday, with Fridays a non-work day for him. The details of how this schedule would look is still being worked out, though there was consensus that Ian's proposal is doable and important to keep Ian working here.

A continuing discussion approached the larger issue that is creating stress and burn out, and that is the lack of planning time and a student-teacher ratio and constant student contact throughout the school day that allows for no collaboration or prep time.

Denise moved that Ian be given an 80% contract for next year as described, and Steve seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Reports

1. **President's Report**-Denise is leaving for vacation and will miss the March meeting. Evaluation process is not yet complete. Additionally, it is important to consider that Rebecca is now serving in an administrative and executive position, and that we need to determine how to better tie her salary to her responsibilities, as Denise now believes she is underpaid in relation to her workload and the responsibilities of her job. Discussion followed about how to find comparables and how best to determine what an appropriate salary would be for this position, likely using other charter schools with similar roles as comparables.
2. **[Monthly Report](#)**
 - Rebecca highlighted the postcard that went out to families with 5th-10th graders that messaged the value of MG-21 and the upcoming open houses.
 - Ian shared that several kids wanted to play basketball competitively and that through partnering with the Boys and Girls Club there will be a league with a round-robin schedule and a tournament at the end. Fred Bartman will serve as coach this year.

-Rebecca surveyed Middle Campus parents and shared the results (67% return rate; 14 parent responses of 21 total students), which the staff then used as a guide in the listening session, where 10 families were represented.

-Two students are moving to GDS, an eighth grader and a sixth grader, reducing the middle campus student numbers.

-National History Day is going well with students engaging in deep research.

3. Financial Report

-Shared recent expenses as well as grant budget and remaining areas. Sue, as Treasurer, discussed her meeting with Jerrud, and they will work to make our monthly budget sheets, shared with the Board, easier to understand than the current Skyward printouts.

G. Business

1. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and Possible Action Enrollment Limits for Middle Campus 2020-21

-Denise moved to create a 12-1 student-teacher ratio in 2020-2021 for Middle Campus, and Phil seconded.

-Discussion followed about how to create more flexibility for collaboration and teacher prep time. Jon shared, for one example, the idea that perhaps one teacher might teach a full class (all 24 students) for an hour in a more typical classroom setting—rather than the PBL time-- while the other has prep time.

-Motion passed unanimously to accept 24 students into the 2020-21 Middle Campus.

2. Important Dates-Audit March 2020/ Federal On Site Monitoring September 22, 2020

-Rebecca shared electronically a 52 page document related to the on site visit in September, so that board members might be apprised of the expectations of us and the school as that visit approaches.

-Phil suggested that this be an agenda item for each board meeting going forward.

-MG-21 will complete a report for the state using internal auditors by April 17, 2020, based on the January 17, 2020 e-mail from Chanell Crawford. Jerrud is aware of this and is working on it.

3. Recruitment/Open Houses Update

-Shared earlier with postcard description.

-For the open house, each student will create a photographic interpretation of their “path.”

H. Motion to convene into Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c) and for consideration of the following: MG21 staffing (Roll call vote) Denise moved, Phil Seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous.

I. Motion to adjourn

Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session to take possible action on items discussed in Closed Session. Denise moved and Tom Stolper seconded. Passed unanimously.

J. Adjournment. Adjourned by Denise at 6:21 pm

MG21 Governance Board Goals

1.To develop and implement a tool for evaluating the MG21 Executive Director.

2.To foster a positive and empowering work environment where all stakeholders can experience working conditions that sustain energy and dedication for years.

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